



## State of Utah

### Department of Natural Resources

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### Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

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August 2, 2004

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Doug Jensen, Senior Reclamation Engineer *DJ*

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, Bingham Canyon Mine, Project, M/035/002, Salt Lake County, Utah

Date of Inspection: July 21, 2004  
Time of Inspection: 9:00 a.m.  
Conditions: Sunny, Warm  
Participants: Vicky Peacey, KUC, Bear Slothhower, Kennecott Land (KLC), Doug Jensen, Paul Baker, DOGM

#### **Purpose of Inspection:**

Response to a request from KUC for release of a 10-section area on the southeastern edge of KUC's permit area.

#### **Getting to the site:**

This area is located south of old Bingham Highway approximately 1½ miles east of Copperton.

#### **Observations:**

The 10 sections requested for release included Sections 7, 17, 18 & 19, T3S, R1W and Sections 13, 14, 15, 24, 25 & 28, T3S, R2W. While some of these areas had never been used by KUC for mining purposes, others had been used to evaporate excess water from the mine area.

Kennecott Land has planned a major community development that may eventually cover much of the 10 sections in question. The first phase of construction of this community has been initiated within Sections 17 & 18. Housing was one of the proposed post-mine land uses listed in KUC's 1978 Reclamation Plan.

The 10 sections do contain several mine-impacted sites that are not related to KUC operations. These include the Bastian Sink, Lark Tailing



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Remediation, Copper Creek Soil Removal, Midas Creek/Silo Soil Removal and the Bingham Flats Reclamation Plan. These sites are not described in the 1976 Notice of Intent or the 1978 reclamation plan, but they have all been remediated, reclaimed or received a no further action status in accordance with one or more of the following documents: 1) Record of Decision, Kennecott South Zone (USEPA, 2001); 2) Administrative Order of Consent, Lark Waste Rock and Tailings Site (USEPA 1998; Docket No. CERCLA-VIII-98-9); and 3) 1993; Docket No. CERCLA-VIII-93-10). There are no land use restrictions imposed on any of these sites, except the Bastian Sink, where only industrial and farming uses are currently allowed.

Land restrictions were also placed on the 217-acre sludge disposal area, which resulted from the evaporation pond clean-up. No industrial, housing or farming was to be allowed in this area. Due to KLC's plans for a 13,500 unit residential community to be named Daybreak, they have initiated the removal of the sludge from the 217-acre sludge disposal area and removal of contaminated soils from the Bastian Sink area. This material is being removed and placed in an area called the Copper Notch which is located at the foot of KUC's waste dumps. The Copper Notch area is located within KUC's permit area, but outside of the 10-section area that was being reviewed for possible release.

The first place we toured was the area of Daybreak's first phase model homes for the housing development. This area is located south of the area where the sludge removal is taking place. There is an area where model homes and a community center are being built. Down the hill from these homes, the streets and curbing for the remainder of the first phase of the community development are in place.

We then toured the north and south sludge storage areas where the removal work is taking place. A large portion of the sludge has been removed, but there still remains quite a bit of material to be removed.

A majority of the areas within these 10 sections has been and is presently being dry farmed. Therefore the ground cover for these areas appears to be a grain crop.

We drove through the area where the sulfate removal well and pipeline corridors were located. We discussed the need for these areas and future



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proposed well sites to remain within the KUC permit area until pumping was completed.

The next area visited was the Bastian Sink Area. Removal of some of the material from this area had been initiated. We informed Kennecott that **according to the approved sludge removal plan; this material was designated to be used for capping the sludge material in Copper Notch.** The Bastian Sink material was to be used as a growth medium for this area. We requested that Kennecott adhere to the approved plan and reserve the remaining material at Bastian Sink for that purpose.

Because there was no road through the majority of Section 28, Paul and Vicky walked through this area to assess the plant density and diversity. This area has not been farmed, and the vegetation is suitable for a native rangeland/wildlife habitat land use. There were some weeds, especially cheatgrass and toadflax with some whitetop and Scotch thistle, but, overall, vegetation cover and composition were good. Paul felt that vegetation was sufficient to allow for the release of this area.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

Our inspection found that the 10-section area contained in KUC's request to release have been reclaimed sufficiently to release with the exceptions discussed below.

The 217-acre sludge removal area, the Bastian Sink Area, and the haul road presently being used to remove the material from these areas should not be released at this time. These areas need to remain within KUC's permit area and reclamation responsibility until the work in these areas has been completed.

In addition, all proposed and existing well sites being used to remove high sulfate waters from the aquifer and pipeline corridors associated with these sites; need to remain a part of KUC's reclamation responsibility.

DJ:jb

cc: Vicky Peacey, KUC

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